

ABERCORNUCOPIA

A VILLAGE REVIEW

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AFRICAN STATES AT ABERCORN LOCUST COUNCIL

The Sixteenth Annual Ordinary Session of the Council of the International Red Locust Control Service is due to commence at the Abercorn Headquarters of the organisation on Saturday June 13th when the conference will be opened by the President of the Council, Mr. J.A. Whellan, who will also represent Southern Rhodesia.

Other Government Representatives are expected from Northern Rhodesia, South Africa, Angola, Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda. In addition to the Advisor from the Anti-Locust Research Centre, London, and Mr. Geoff Beckett C.M.G., former President of the Council, the

United Nations, Food and Agricultural Organisation will be sending an Observer, Mr. Gurdas Singh, to attend the meetings.

Other Governments concerned, although not sending representatives to this meeting, have already indicated their continued interest and financial support for the Service.

Mr. C. du Plessis, Director of the Service, and Mrs. du Plessis are giving a buffet supper at The Lake View Hotel on the evening of Wednesday, June 17, to which a large number of Abercorn residents has been invited.

MPULUNGU STRIKE SETTLEMENT

Agreement has been reached in the industrial dispute at Mpulungu which some weeks ago led to a brief withdrawal of labour at the fish handling and processing plant there.

The 90 men employed on this work are members of the National Union of Commercial and Industrial Workers and they attempted to bring certain grievances before Mr. de Beer Managing Director of Messrs. Irvin and Johnson, when he visited the port from Salisbury.

Mr. de Beer did not find it possible to settle the matter on the spot in negotiation with Mr. H.J. Mulenga, Area Secretary of the Union, and Mr. Chisunka, the Provincial Administration Officer detailed by the District Commissioner to assist in the discussions.

As a result a dispute between the Union and the management was formally declared and the men returned to work.

Agreement in this dispute was

reached in May 19. Mr. J.M. Cooper-Smith, representing the Company, agreed to recognise Mr. Mulenga as representing the company's employees at Mpulungu and, with the assistance of Mr. M.H. Morris, Labour Officer at Bancroft, certain improved conditions of service were put into force. These conditions and wage levels are to be further reviewed next month.

Among the agreed points were: a nine-hour working day for shore-based workers, with certain overtime provisions; four rest days in every 28 days; 18 days' leave on full pay after 12 months' service; six paid holidays in the year on which any work done shall be paid at double rates. Men working in the boats are to have an extra 60 a day for each day spent afloat as a temporary measure pending final wage agreements.

Work has been proceeding normally since these arrangements were made.

VILLAGE "SELF-HELPERS" AT WORK

A long list of successful "self-help" projects undertaken by villagers all over Northern Rhodesia has been published recently.

There is no mention of Abercorn.

Is there nothing we need in this district? Or has the campaign not got going yet in the area?

New buildings water furrows, fish-ponds, schools, and all sorts of amenities are being constructed by local people from local materials on a voluntary basis in response to the Government's appeal to the people to make their own personal contribution towards higher living standards.

In the Northern Province alone:-

At Mulenga Kasomo's village the people dug a water furrow four miles long and a number of fishponds.

At Chitulika, the women brewed beer, the men made bricks and eight young men from the Development Area Training Centre built 16 houses.

At Chibansa, the villagers built a school.

Chief Mungule's people built a bridge for the children to get to school which has also opened up the area to wheeled transport.

At Mporokoso Chief Mukupa and his people built seven fishponds, three water furrows, a dispensary, and a school dormitory. Parents and children at Vincent Bulaya's village, built school dormitories with local materials on their own initiative. At Chiwala school-children built their own hostel.

Kasama has been the site of more fishponds.

For the children of Kanyanta, the people of neighbouring villages made bricks and built a school. Kasama schoolboys from a community service camp made bricks and built a hostel at Munkonge.

At Katilungu School, all teachers' houses were built by the villagers. Ngoli School was built by the villagers with the children helping.

In the Luwingu district, Chief Shimumbi's villagers built two food stores, six dormitories a school, teachers' houses and a resthouse in local materials.

At Tungati L.E.A. school and at Isoka, two 15-bed dispensaries were built. At Nkweto, in the Chinsali area, the people have built a community centre.

But perhaps the most significant development in the Chinsali area is the wholesale rebuilding of schools burnt down in the 1961 disturbances.

FUEL SUPPLIES SAFE

There is no immediate prospect of an "oil famine" in the Nor-

thern Province as stated in a Ndola newspaper recently.

The Malagarasi section of the Kigoma railway is still flooded but it has been found possible to bring trains through and tank cars are unaffected by the water.

There are good stocks of oil fuels both at Kigoma and Mpulungu; but Kasama was supplied from line of-rail (and the price of petrol raised to 5s. for a short period) as a precautionary measure.

C. B. C. SHOPS

A SINCERE SPEECH

The speech which Dr. Kaunda delivered in the Legislative Assembly on May 27 on his return from his discussions in London had qualities of restraint and statesmanship which are very unusual in the utterances of African leaders in their moments of triumph.

His words conveyed a human and genuine pleasure in the success of his work without any false emphasis on fictitious "struggles" or "sufferings". He disclaimed "victory" and spoke of "commonsense". It must have been perfectly clear to him that his visit to London was not for the purpose of arguing with the British Government, but for putting into formal and legal shape decisions in line with the policy of both sides. Naturally there were details to be discussed; but in general there was never any doubt of the outcome, and that being the case the presence of the two opposition parties at the discussions was a concession which the Prime Minister could well afford to make, and a gesture that cannot fail to have an excellent effect upon relations between the three political groups. Thus he could refer in his speech to "a wonderful atmosphere of goodwill co-operation and friendship".

One can, of course, put these phrases into a speech with a few strokes of the pen but I do not think, in this case, that this has been done. There are little touches evident to anyone interested in the finer points of language which seem to show substantially more sincerity than is usual in such utterances. Here is just one example: Dr. Kaunda said: "In particular I appeal to all Zambians to forget past differences and to forget any injustices which have befallen us—" The quite trivial point to notice is that he did not say "all those terrible injustices"; he just says "any injustices". This is the difference between statesmanship and politics. Similarly he goes on early in his speech to say that "the history of our country could not be written in full if the name of Mr. Nkumbu-

la was not mentioned." True, he can—politically—afford this generosity; but many people who can afford to make gifts fail to do so, and one can only give Dr. Kaunda the credit for—at the very least—making such gifts as he can afford. Only the mean-spirited would do less; only the rash would do more. On the evidence, then, of this speech he is at least neither mean-spirited nor rash.

Thus, even I, by no means a blind supporter of African nationalism, cannot fail to recognise that this speech was composed and delivered on a note that augurs well for the future if its sentiments, and particularly its tone, can be maintained not only by Dr. Kaunda himself but by his many lieutenants who have become accustomed to quite different political music in the recent past.

Perhaps one of the most valuable functions of the Commonwealth will be to keep the politicians and statesmen of its constituent nations in touch with that spirit of sweet reasonableness which, at England's best, informs the councils of the mother country. Most "expatriate" British would, I think, agree with me that far greater shocks, than impending political changes have been the vicious slanders which have been made against them in their mother country where the mean-spirited place-seekers (one at least of them now relegated to the limbo of Gower Street) have seemed to them to topple in ruins the whole structure of decent consideration for others which her sons and daughters had thought was one of Britain's most valuable contributions to human life and politics.

If Dr. Kaunda's office is to be informed with that spirit—as his speech seems to indicate—those from other countries who choose to stay and work here will be able to do so with far greater happiness and confidence than they at first thought possible.

CORNELIUS

WATER WARNING

People who leave taps turned on or who tie down the "press taps" provided in the new Mbulu Suburbs might find themselves having to pay more rent.

They are also warned that if taps are found left running or tied down in this way, they may be removed and the pipe plugged so as to prevent the waste of water.

These warnings are issued in a letter to all residents of Mbulu Suburb issued on June 2 by the Management Board. The letter points out that the present water shortage in Abercorn is expected to get worse during the next few months until improvements can be made to the system.

There is plenty of water available but the building of so many new houses has put a heavy load on the existing pumps and mains.

SHOP SHORTAGES

Those permanently aggrieved creatures—housewives—have been complaining loudly lately about the general shortage of quite ordinary goods in local stores. Added to their usual troubles they have also had to cope with husbands who lack their favourite shaving cream, digestive tablets or what have you. A trying situation for all concerned. Tactful chats with the traders reveal that there actually has been a good deal of difficulty in obtaining goods from line-of-rail. The drastic change in Customs procedure has contributed to this and, with the European population tending to fall rather than rise—especially with the large number of resignations now becoming operative—wholesalers seems to be exercising a good deal of caution in their stocking policy. This is, it seems an unavoidable, and it is to be hoped temporary symptom of all the re-organisation now proceeding and housewives will just have to—not grin, of course—but smile sweetly and bear it.

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DANCE BAND

Is there a dance band in Abercorn or enough musicians to form one? Any one interested apply Mrs. Williamson, N.R. Police.

SEASON'S RAINFALL

The season's rain, on most gauges, tailed off at the April figure of just under the 50 inches. A trace only was reported in May which is unusual.

There was, however, a heavy fall in the Lunzuwa area on Thursday afternoon, June 4. Some thunder was heard from threatening clouds but no rain fell in the township.

POST OFFICE MEN'S LONG SERVICE

The names and service records of 12 African postal officials who have either been appointed or are about to be appointed to senior posts in their department are given in a recently issued Government list. Among them is Mr. M. Yalenga who, as announced in our last issue, is now Postmaster here and has 22 years' service.

The average length of service of these 12 senior men in the Post Office is nearly 23 years. One, Mr. V.K. Silenga, Assistant Superintendent at Livingstone, has 30 years' service and none have been with the Department for less than 18 years.

The official statement, which emphasises the excellent opportunities which now exist for trained people in the Post Office, states that in a total staff of 1,954 there are now 1,413 Africans—72 per cent.

Sixty-eight resign

On Wednesday the Minister of Transport and Communications, Mr. Kamanga, announced in the Legislative Assembly that further deterioration in Post Office services must be expected because 68 European employees had announced at the month-end that they did not intend to continue in the service.

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"List Price" Paid For 1928 Car**SOME ABERCORN VETERANS**

A 36-years-old Abercorn car with 41,000 miles on the clock, was sold last month to a line-of-rail motor firm for a price at least equal to its original landed cost.

This is Miss A.H. Gamwell's 1928 Chevrolet, with specially built "Safari" body, which she maintained in running order right up to the day it left here on a big Diesel lorry sent by Border Motors especially to carry it to Lusaka.

Miss Gamwell originally drove the car from Dar es Salaam and has used it constantly ever since except for the war interval. For the last ten years or more it has been used mainly on the steep and narrow farm tracks about the hilly Chilongolwelo estate.

Although the old car is in running order, it was arranged for Mr. Peter Parton to tow it up the long ten miles hill to Abercorn. He drove it down the steep, winding 1½ miles drive from the house to the main road and then found he had left the tow rope at the house; so he drove it back up the hill without any difficulty and then down again.

The car was bought as a "vintage" model by Border Motors and will presumably be polished up to showroom standard and used for display.

A more unusual type of veteran is Miss Gamwell's 30-years-old "Seagull" outboard, also still a "runner". Although in frequent use on Lake Tanganyika all its life, it still looks little different in condition from its fellows when lying among current models.

Miss Gamwell and her sister have always driven and looked after their vehicles personally, even in the case of farm tractors and implements. There is a forge and workshop at the estate where much farm engineering work was done.

Another old car to come into the "veteran" market is Mrs. Norah Clark's Model A Ford

once known as "Henry" which has been out of action at Chisungu for over 15 years. This was originally "Chris." Draper's car and it did an immense amount of work during the war years when he and Mrs. Clark ran the Fire Patrol which then strictly controlled all bush fires in the Abercorn area. This, although saleable as "vintage" did not of course fetch anything like the price of the 1928 "runner".

Reminiscences of other old Abercorn cars come from Mr. George Tasker, who first came here in 1917 when on Royal Navy service on the Lake and returned here in 1926. Mr. Tasker recalls that the late Mr. J. H. Venning sold to the Rev. "Jimmy" Ross at Kambole the Model T Ford in which he had driven here from Broken Hill along the carrier track. This was the first car to reach Abercorn from what is now - line of rail".

I had a word about this the other day with the Rev. John Chifunda, who is still at Kambole, and he said that Mr. Ross bought many cars during his time there are some bits and pieces still lying around at the old mission. "But I think they are all very useless," he added.

This old Model T Ford, says Mr. Tasker, was known as "Sunspot."

This recalls how Mr. Venning took much interest in the 11½ years sunspot cycle theory about rainfall and lake levels. After his retirement he was engaged in cutting back the bush from the whole southern lake shore to clear the area of the shade-breeding tsetse, and was thus concerned with the variation of water level.

The Armstrong-Siddeley he later owned was, says Mr. Tasker, known by the irreverent as "Headstrong-Skidley". Mr. Venning, however, later owned a Buick and other cars and safely drove his 1948 Chev. well into his eighties.

"CAN-CAN" AND "OPERA" AT THE CLUB

An appreciative gasp spread through the hall and men sat up with a start as three elegant Parisiennes high-kicked their way on to the stage at the Tennis Section's Candle Light Supper, Dance and Cabaret on May 23, drawing wolf whistles and applause from a large and enthralled audience.

Marvellously authentic costumes contrived by Margot Kuhne revealed, on the kicks, not only the usual frillies but the vastly intriguing detail of telephone numbers.

This spirited can-can, performed by "Mesdemoiselles, La Pyxe, Eve and Jeanne" (also known less romantically as McLoughlin, Landry and Missen) was considered by many to be the top spot of a cabaret which maintained a consistently high standard.

The Supper Cabaret and Dance provided a splendid evening's entertainment which moved with speed and slick professionalism. The audience readily joined in many of the songs sung by the old-time music-hall performers; and members of the ensemble—Alf and Ivy Scott, Don and Margaret Woffenden, Roger and Diana Pettit, Theo Badenhuizen, Joan Carlin and Reg Howe—all sang tuneful solos, the ladies looking most attractive in their Edwardian costumes. The Scotts surprised most of us with an unexpected talent for song-and-dance routine, and their duet "They'll Never Believe Me" had great charm.

Everyone was, of course, particularly delighted by the surprise visit of an operatic contralto, who bore a remarkable resemblance to Roger Pettit, and whose bell-like tones and striking blonde voluptuousness caused, in their more classical style, as much stir as the earlier appearance of the Can-Can lovelies.

Joan Carlin and Reg Howe surprised no one, for we expected and duly received their usual expert performances; Joan gave a polished satirical rendering of "I Hear You Calling Me", and Reg made a terrifying operatic villain provoking appropriate hisses and boos from the other side of the footlights. Mr. Howe Senior, who will be 88 "come Michaelmas", managed the various complex piano accompaniments with great skill, and the Can-Can dancers were ably supported by Margot Kuhne.

This was the last appearance of Theo Badenhuizen as Tennis Member. This office has now been taken over by Joan Missen, and they and all concerned in the organisation are to be congratulated on a thoroughly enjoyable show.

contributed

ABERCORN MANAGEMENT BOARD.

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF OWNERS RATES 1964.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH the provisions of section 26 J (9) of the Townships Ordinance (Cap 120 of the Laws of Northern Rhodesia) I give notice that the Abercorn Management Board, in terms of section 26 J (1) of the said Ordinance has made and levied an ordinary owner's rate upon all assessable land and upon all assessable buildings or other improvements, within its area, for the period commencing on the 1st July 1964, and ending on the 31st December, 1964, as follows:

Three pence halfpenny ($3\frac{1}{2}d$) in the pound (£) upon the value of all assessable land. One and three quarter pence ($1\frac{3}{4}d$) in the pound (£) upon the value of all assessable buildings or other improvements.

Such values refer to those shown in the current valuation rolls of the Board.

Rates must be paid to me at the offices of the Board on or before the 30th September, 1964.

R.M.HOWE.
SECRETARY.

ABERCORN MANAGEMENT BOARD.

P.O. Box 81,

ABERCORN.

X COFFEE "COME-BACK" POSSIBLE FOR ABERCORN X

We have been favoured by Mr. M. Singer, District Agricultural Officer, with a trial sample of Abercorn grown and processed coffee and it is understood that the Department hopes to put the roasted and ground product on retail sale here shortly.

This was pure Arabica, unblended of course, described as "medium dark roast" and medium coarse" grind.

Infused in the ordinary old-fashioned way in a thick, warmed earthenware jug, we found this an excellent, full-flavoured beverage. Taken without sugar it had a distinct bitterness which of course, is a matter of taste and depends much on the darkness of the "roast".

The date of roasting and grinding was not stated, but the coffee, packed in a sealed polythene bag, appeared to have retained its flavour and aroma perfectly.

Before canning became so universal, every housewife whose family took a real interest in good coffee bought the green beans at her grocer and often stood by while her purchase was individually roasted and ground to her taste at the counter. Hundreds - perhaps thousands - of quite small grocers in a city such as London had the apparatus and skill to perform this service and the unmatched aroma of roasting coffee beans used to be a common and delightful feature of every shopping area.

Absolute freshness, in those more spacious days, was thus ensured; but if packing such as polythene can achieve the same object without this nowdays impossible personal service there is no need to regret the past.

It should not be forgotten that in the days of European coffee plantations in this area, Abercorn "Blue Mountain" coffee had a real reputation on the London market and fetched prices among the highest paid there in competition with coffees from all the producing areas. There is no reason why this position should not be re-established.

SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR ABERCORN TO START IN JANUARY

It is reported that the Education Department hopes to start two Form I streams comprising some 60 or 70 pupils in January.

These classes will form the nucleus for Abercorn Junior Secondary School. It is hoped that buildings for the school will be started soon on the site between the Mbulu and the transport workshops on Marshall Avenue so that these classes can begin in the new buildings.

The Ministry expects to be able to take members of these first Form I classes on to Form 2 at the beginning of the school's second year. In this way the school can develop (one or more forms being added annually) until there is a school certificate form and eventually a sixth form.

If the school buildings are not ready for January the first form I classes will be held at Lunzua.

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MINUTES AND MEMORANDA

"By Conch"

Abercorn golfers who are going to Kasama for the annual match over the long July 13 and 14 holiday, are likely to find themselves facing some tough matches.

Golfers have been very active in the southern metropolis (if that is the word) lately. During the last four months, a correspondent writes a competition has been held every week with an average field of 18 players. The Ladies Section has been very lively under the leadership of Miss Paddy Herbison and administration of Mrs. Myrna Craig. They have managed to field about 12 players every week for their Friday afternoon competitions, open only to ladies.

The only record performance so far this year was by Bill Baker who returned the first official par round over the length-

ened course. Mrs. Madge Donoghue has done so well that she was cut a total of ten strokes in under a month.

The Trophy Competitions up to mid-May have been won as follows:

Lanky Tankards — Men: Terry Brett; Donoghue, second. Ladies: Madge Donoghue; Penny Salter, second. Warrington Tankard: — Gerry Moore; T. Donoghue, second. Smith Cup: Madge Donoghue; Bill Baker, second. Alexander Cup: — Paddy Herbison; Madge Donoghue, second. Monthly Medals have been won by: Madge Herbison (2), Ron Craig; Terry Brett and Tom Donoghue.

Abercornians are reminded that they are always welcome on the course. The caddy and green fee at the moment is 1/6d. for 9 holes.

LOCUSTS WIN AT LAST

The floating Tennis Trophy presented by the International Red Locust Control Service in 1952 for an annual match between Abercorn Town and the Service was played for on May 31 and resulted in a win for Locusts by 6 matches to 4.

The teams were, Locusts—Pix and Peter McLoughlin, Margot Kuhne, Joan Missen, Robin Crosse-Upcott and Jim Ennis, the latter being "borrowed" to complete the team; and Town—Ivy and Alf Scott, Emily Firth, Joan Carlin, Ian Mackinson and Chris Roberts.

A pleasant day's tennis was enjoyed by all, although somewhat gruelling when the breeze dropped in the heat of the day and the sun did its best to incapacitate both teams without success; and it was a very rubicon gathering afterwards for the presentation and consumption of a lavish quantity of champagne.

Mr. Kuhne presented the trophy to the Locust captain and said what a great pleasure it was to do so as the matches to date stand: Town 10; Locusts 3.

TENNIS SECTION NOTES

The Tennis Section is pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Mackinson, Mr. and Mrs. Firth, Mrs. Farran and Johnny Joubert as new players. The new members - and everyone else - are reminded that there is social tennis from 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and anyone wanting a game during the week can usually arrange one by contacting the Tennis Member.

Work has started on the court under repair and it is hoped to cement the surface this week.

The section has challenged the Golf Section to a match for a crate of beer scheduled for

Sunday, June 14. We just love to see the golfers wielding their rackets and — even more — we love to drink their beer.

The American Tournament held on Monday, May 25, was won by Johnny Joubert with 28 out of the possible 40. Pix McLoughlin was second with 26 and Alf and Ivy Scott were third with 24 each.

All those interested in playing at Kasama on August Bank Holiday are asked to see the Tennis Member as it is hoped to play off elimination matches as soon as possible to enable team practice to begin.

WHITSUN REGATTA

In a four day regatta held over the two long week-ends in May Yacht Club members enjoyed some good sailing in stiff breezes.

Once again the men—in general—came off second best to the women, although Alan Bowmaker proved his considerable sailing ability by coming first to Amanda Lloyd's second and Glenda Tobin's third places.

On the last day complex courses were arranged by Messrs. Rushton, Tobin and Barr which resulted in some far from orderly manoeuvring round the buoys.

The races were closely followed by those ashore who thoroughly appreciated the tactical niceties of buoy-rounding in such conditions as the shouts and general excitement of skippers and crews demanding inside places and "water!" were clearly audible across the lake.

Amelia Gregor enhanced public appreciation of these events by giving a sometimes alarming running commentary from her post with the binoculars.

In the knock-out event which closed the regatta Alan Bowmaker retained his position in first place but Gavin Barr came up to second with Colin Carlin third and Glenda Tobin dropping back to fourth position.

Although it was cold and windy enough in the earlier part of the morning to warrant all the duffel coats and anoraks so freely displayed by tropical yachtsmen, the excellent luncheon provided by members' wives was enjoyed in warm midday sun.

Some people are saying that Amanda Lloyd failed to retain second place because by the time the knock-out race was sailed off she was almost completely "plastered". This is a gross libel because poor Amanda very gallantly skippered her boat right through the regatta despite the pretty extensive medical plaster in which she was encased following a slight back strain.

TOWN BOARD

NOTES

The improvement of water supplies and sanitation in the older part of the Mbulu Suburb came before the Town Management Board meeting of May 22.

It was stated that estimates for the work have been obtained from the African Housing Board and advice of funds available for the work is awaited.

The provision of a new high level tank, it was pointed out, is all the more urgent in view of the increased demand this scheme will bring, but no decision on this item has yet been received from the Ministry.

It was resolved that in view of the expense of levelling the site previously proposed, a Bus Station will be provided on the site of the old Welfare Hall and the remains of the library there will be converted into a shelter for passengers.

Tafuna Road in the new Mbulu Suburb is to be put in order in the next few weeks.

Three shops are to be built on plots 6, 7 and 8 as a trial shopping centre similar in design to shops provided at Monze.

Mr. F.J.H. Smit's tender for a new house for the Community Development Assistant has been accepted.

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

It was stated that the sum provided from the central fund appeared to be intended for the whole Abercorn District and that there was no separate allocation for the Township. A District Committee is being formed and it was proposed that Fr. Ideler should be nominated as the Management Board's representative on it. If it is confirmed that there is no allocation for the township, it is proposed to dissolve the Board's sub-committee and leave the matter in the hands of the District Committee.

The Secretary, however, is to endeavour to obtain a flag staff for the Board's offices and is to order a new Zambia flag and Union Jack.

CHILA CHAT

Abercorn fee-paying primary school opened on Tuesday June 2 a week late. The newly appointed teacher, Mrs. Deacon who came here from Ndola, arrived the previous Friday and an early braavleis for parents and children to meet her was held by Mr. and Mrs. Gavin Barr on Saturday evening.

"Ted" Malujo has returned from his helicopter training course in California having completed it successfully without so much as scratching the paint of a vehicle during instruction. Doubtless his years of "zero height" flying in the Rukwa helped considerably. Old hands will remember that one Locust plane happened to approach a recumbent buffalo which stood up just as the pilot reached him and knocked a wheel off the undercarriage of the plane. If you are accustomed to this sort of thing, to fly a sort of praying mantis which usually stands on its head the first time you take off is a simple matter or is it?

Mr. George Damm has been recovering in Abercorn Hospital from a serious injury to his hand sustained at Malonje Farm Tanganyika. It is reported that his hand slipped while using a circular saw and his thumb was almost severed below the main joint, fortunately leaving the artery undamaged.

Mr. Damm, suffering from severe pain and shock, was driven to Sumbawanga where there was only a medical assistant who could do little for such a serious wound. He then had to face the long journey to Abercorn, by transport provided by Mr. Jehta, where he was admitted to hospital.

At the time of going to press Mr. Damm and his wife had resumed residence at their Kalambo Farm (Sunzu) to be at hand for any further medical attention and good progress was giving grounds for hope that the thumb could be saved.

Lion spoor on the Mpulungu road was reported a week or so ago and thought to be the tracks of a pride of four, one of them very large. Opinion is divided that they may have

been going through to the Pans or into the Mambwe country; but no further reports have come in.

In view of the I.R.L.C.S. reception being held in connection with the Council meeting on June 17, the next film show — "Houseboat" — will take place on Thursday, June 18, and not, as usual, on Wednesday. Talking of film shows — stand by for Walt Disney's famous "The Vanishing Prairies"; Peter Sellers Film "Only Two Can Play" and the Oriental musical "Flower Drum Song". All coming soon.

Mr. Clive Carter has come from Chirundu as Collector of Customs in succession to Mr. R. Pettit who has been transferred to Lusaka

Mr. and Mrs. H.A.D. Martin have taken up residence in Mrs. Swan-Cooper's house near C.A.R.S. depot. Mr. Martin has relinquished his post with the Kasama Town Management Board to take over the Abercorn Butchery, which Mrs. Martin has been operating for some weeks under the name of Marlan and Co. Mr. Martin tells me he hopes to improve fresh meat and other supplies to Abercorn and also to undertake construction contracts.

I cannot forbear from reporting a touching manifestation of teen-age behaviour such as we seldom have an opportunity of experiencing in Abercorn. A very young — and quite charming — lady, (whom I have known nearly all her life) having spent as much time as she decently could running through the magazines in The Lake Press shop, went out and remained standing on the pavement for a considerable time with her eye on the garage. Happening to go to the doorway, I said "Hallo Waiting for someone?" "No," she said. "You're just standing there?". "Yes," she said. I retreated baffled; but then remembered it was the day the boys were due to go back to school.

Mr. Giuliano Basili is shortly going on leave to Italy and his replacement as manager for

Heinrichs Syndicate is Mr. Paul Renk who arrived last Wednesday. Everyone will most sincerely miss Giuliano's breezy co-operation in almost every local activity; and the waters of Lake Chila will no doubt be much calmer, left for a few months undisturbed by the powerful sound waves of "the voice" echoing over its broad expanse.

The Abercorn Red Cross Group Leader thanks everyone who so kindly gave cakes, produce, etc., and helped with the Afternoon Market held at the T.V.M.I. recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Westwood have just returned from a trip to Nyasaland bringing their married daughter, Lynne Pritchard, with her nine-months-old son and their younger daughter, Gail, for a visit to Abercorn.

A daughter — her third child — was born to Mrs. Wood in Abercorn Hospital on May 12.

Is there a sort of "Parkinson's Law" in the realm of transport and communications? You will recall that this is the immutable natural law of the Civil Service, discovered by Professor Parkinson, which decrees that in any circumstances whatever work expands so as to occupy the staff, however little the

work and however large the staff—or words to that effect I remember Dave Clark, never a very round peg in the hole which he for so many years occupied in the P.W.D., used to say at one stage of that Department's growth (long before Parkinson's bombshell) that even if not one more brick was laid the staff would be fully occupied administering itself.

In transport and communications it seems that more and more faster and faster journeys become necessary for public men despite more and more, faster and faster communications. New wireless links, cables and even space satellites; telephone systems by means of which anyone in Britain can dial anyone in Europe; all established at the cost of thousands of millions of pounds; now permit almost instant and complete communication with anybody. Yet Ministers and all sorts of other people still have to hurtle all over the globe at 400, 700 and soon at 1,500 miles an hour only to talk to each other. Can I be blamed for thinking that this way, most certainly, lies such a madhouse as the world has never before known? Or is it that I myself inhabit my own private madhouse? This is a problem which becomes more difficult to sort out almost day by day.

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